71 1946

Christian Youth Council Plans for Conference

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 10-12-46

Members of the Christian Youth Council of NYC filling envelopes with information about their Metropoli an Christian Youth Conference to be held at the Riverside Church on Oct. 26. The council is located at 71 W. 23rd St., and is sponsored by the Protestant Council. In photo, left to right, Charles Farrow Yolanda Lacker, John S. Wood, Jeanne White, Mrs. Leona Evans, director; Alberta Doskocil, Carl Flemis ter, Peggy Eismann.

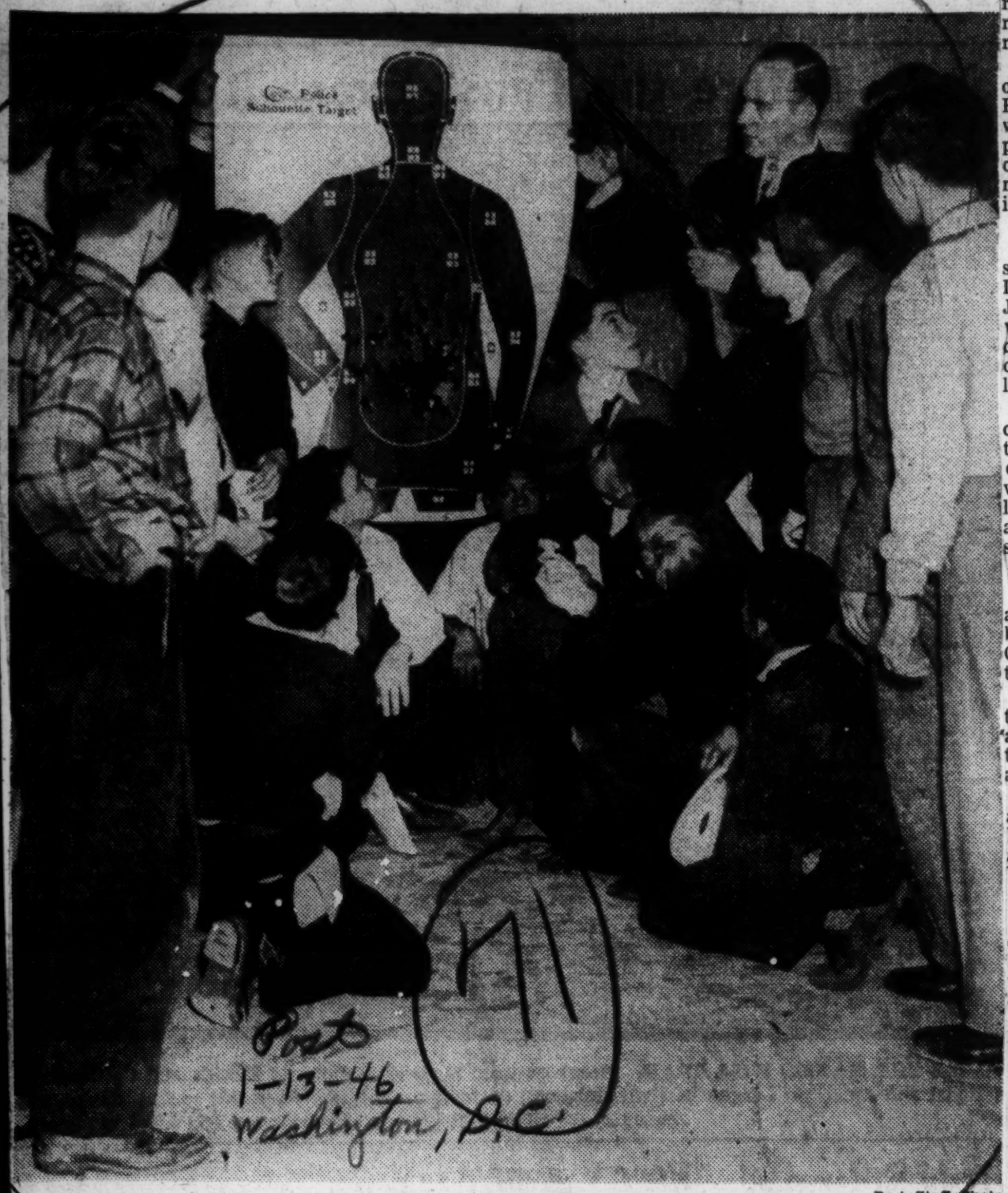
BOYS' TOWN CHORAL SINGERS

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-16-46

Father Flanagan (left foreground) watches his famous Boys' Town Choral singers as they rehearsed for their first New York appearance at Carnegie Hall Nov. 6. Grouped on the steps of Dowd Memorial Chapel, Boys' Town, Nebr., the inter-racial group look to a concert tour which will take them to several cities of the East.—Acme Photo.

71 1946

That's Real Shooting, Boys



Post Staff Photo

CARRIERS TOUR FBI—Special Agent Edmund Mason describes the Thompson submachine gun that he holds in his hand to a group of Washington Post carrier boys from the Union branch. Mason shot up the target while conducting a tour for the boys through FBI laboratories and shooting ranges

2 Philadelphia Boys' Clubs Lower Delinquency in City

Afro American Baltimore, Md.
Sat 5-11-46

PHILADELPHIA. Club at 5644 Summer St.

Two of the boys' clubs in Phil- Both of these clubs are support-
adelphia, which are doing a top-ed by the Crime Prevention As-
notch job in handling the prob- sociation of which J. Francis Fin-
lem of juvenile delinquency, are negan is director, with headquar-
Benezet Boys' Club located at 1909 ters in the Board of Education
Lombard St. and Mahlon Lewis Building, 21st St. and the Park-
way.

The Mahlon Lewis Club was officially opened for operation by the CPA on Oct. 1, 1945.

Minister Supervises

The building was erected adjacent to St. Matthews AME Church by the Rev. Mahlon Lewis, pastor of the church and founder of the club, who, as contractor, drew up the plans and completely supervised the entire building program.

The club has a regulation-sized gymnasium with locker rooms and showers, a well-equipped library containing 600 volumes of books and current periodicals, game rooms, a carpenter shop, craft room and a reception room with a radio and piano.

There is a recently-organized orchestra under the direction of H. C. Graves, a volunteer worker, who is a well known Philadelphia musician. At present the orchestra has 35 members and is rounding into an excellent organization.

Departmentalized Staff

The personnel of the club consists of Jasper Brown, director; Leonard Blake, physical director; John Pannell, game room supervisor; Perry Stewart, arts and crafts supervisor; William Cannady, vocational guidance, and Willis Hare, field director.

The club also has a boys' council, consisting of nine members of the club elected each year from different age groups, including veterans, who take up the problems of the boys and submit them, along with new suggestions, to the supervisors for discussion.

Sat 5-11-46

Benezet Club Once Church

The Benezet Boys' Club at 19th and Lombard Sts., once a church building, was purchased by the Crime Prevention Association and turned into a recreation center.

The building contains regulation size gymnasium, locker room and showers, game rooms, carpenter shop and craft room combined and a dental clinic with two chairs.

The latter is a recent addition, and is manned by former members of Benezet Boys' Club, who are now dental students at the University of Pennyslvania.

Free Dental Care

These student dentists visit the club twice a week to work on the boys' teeth, and give needed advice to the boys concerning the care of their teeth.

Ernest Coleburn is director of the club and is assisted by Beckett Anderson, physical director; William Holmes, game room supervisor; William Cannady, vocational guidance director, and Pfc. Joseph Wilson, supervisor of arts and crafts.

Sat 5-11-46

The GI staff member is stationed with the U.S. Marine Corps in Philadelphia.

Youth Holds Key To Race's Future, 'Y' Enthusiast Says

Sat 5-11-46

The progress and betterment of our race depends upon what the Negro youth of today is taught.

Principles of sportsmanship, fair play, and clean living are essential factors necessary for the proper upbringing of our young men and women of tomorrow.

Today the youth of our race is in the background. Tomorrow, they shall come forth and take their places in the ranks of "fighters for equality, liberty and justice." In their hands will be placed the task of carrying on where the greatest of Negro leaders left off. They must gain the inevitable triumph, and ultimate victory over race hatred, prejudice, and discrimination. They must be prepared to accept this great responsibility; they must be ready to accept this great opportunity. And this preparation involves, among other things, cooperation, brotherhood, and physical fitness. 6-1-46

I saw a good example of these three qualities when I went to the Wabash YMCA. There were about thirty boys working out on the gym floor. Some were taking calisthenics, others were playing hand ball and basketball. It was while I was watching them play basketball that I came to the conclusion that we are an unbeatable race. Each team displayed such coordinated skill, and determined spirit that I realized it would take more than fogy belief and deep-rooted superstitions to keep us down.

The oldest boy in that gym room was only about fifteen; the youngest about nine. But here I was looking at the men of tomorrow; men who will prove a credit to their race, and their country. Yes; I was looking at our future and from the looks of these boys, I would say that our future looks much brighter. 6-1-46Sat

The man under whom these boys are training has been teaching Negro boys the essentials of sportsmanship and fair play for a long time. His association with the Wabash YMCA has proven beneficial to the boys, the Y, and the Negro race. He has given many a boy the advantage of being ready to tackle the obstacles on the road of life.

He takes pride in all of his boys (he calls all of them "his boys"), and he has every right to be proud of this fine bunch of citizens of tomorrow. Such a man the race can be proud of. Such a man the country can be proud of. Such a man is Mr. Crawford of the Wabash YMCA.

When his ideas of fair play and determination are used by "His Boys," we will have advanced further toward our destined goal.

When the parade of nations marches by the reviewing stand, the Negro race will present itself as the personification of accomplishment and destiny. And among the many that will be watching the parade, there will be the little figure of the incomparable Mr. Crawford, who will probably take his large blue handkerchief from his pocket, wipe the tears from his eyes, and turn to some spectator and say: "Some of those are 'My Boys.'" — David Crowder, Chicago, Ill.

Dallas Youths In Organization

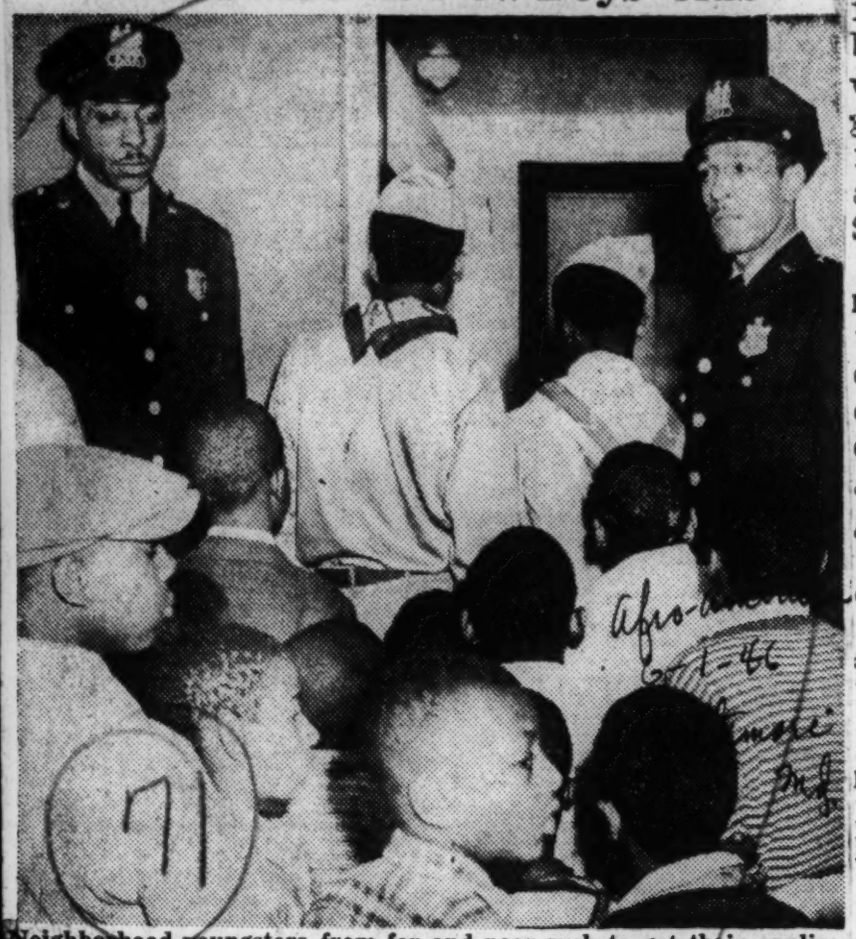
Sally Wants
Atlanta, Ga. Sug.

DALLAS—(ANP)—For the first time in the history of Dallas, youths of all races, religions and nationalities are organizing to work for what is needed in youth programs, a the brotherhood of men. The organization, known as the Dallas Progressive Youth League, is the result of the efforts of young people who believe in progressive social action and education.

The league, according to Samuel J. Murphy of Dallas, "is established to provide an opportunity in Dallas for inspiration and action for teen-age and college youth. It is organized because a new pattern

10-29-46

Youths Flock to New Boys' Club



Neighborhood youngsters from far and near rush to get their applications for membership in the new Northwestern Police Boys' Club at Calhoun and Gold Sts., Baltimore, which opened Friday. Greeting them are Officer Harry Scott, who will direct the $18,500 project, and Officer Jerome Troy, who will conduct the athletic program. Two other officers will be assigned full time with Scott and Troy to administer the club's program to the fun-hungry boys.

YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY MEETS IN N.Y. JUNE 13

The Worker

1946's far from lost generation of youth ranges itself squarely on the side of labor and peace when 500 delegates to the first postwar national convention of American Youth for Democracy meet in New York June 13-16. Sun. 6-9-46

Dramatically highlighting the stand of conscious young Americans in these days will be the mass public session on Friday night, June 14, on the eve of the impending maritime strike. Here youth, as it has done before, will undoubtedly range itself enthusiastically with the great labor movement fighting the monopolies for a decent standard of living. N.Y.

AYD, still a relatively small organization, is moving at a pace which suggests the possibilities of a huge organization in the not too distant future. Since January, the membership has doubled. The present 11,000 includes an ever growing number of young working people in key industrial area, particularly Detroit and San Francisco. Sun. 6-9-46

An interracial organization making as one of its main points the fight against un-American discrimination, AYD has registered with Negro youth. Young veterans, students and teen agers are being attracted to its program of militant fighting for the needs of young people and quick reaction to every attempt to militarize youth for an imperialist World War III. N.Y.

The AYD is also in there pitching for a world unity youth movement. Its delegate to the London World Youth Conference, Mollie Lieber, played no small part in the progressive role of the U.S. delegation which helped launch the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

You'll hear more about this up and at 'em collection of young people. So will reaction and the warmakers who like to brush off youth as the ones who just do the dirty work and aren't old enough to think.

Sun. 6-9-46 New York

It was announced this week that the George Washington Carver Boys' Club campaign is showing gains. The building which will house a spacious gymnasium, swimming pool, club room, games room and shop cannot be furnished without the financial aid of Negroes in Atlanta. Planned recreation makes for less crime and delinquency among any group. When boys are members of the Boys' Club they develop into good citizens. It is with this philosophy that the Carver Boys' Club will operate as a part of the National Boys' Club program. 8-11-46 Sun.

RACIAL PEACE PLAN DRAWN BY YOUTHS

The Times

540 Delegates at Forum Also Offer Formula for Peace— Rise for Teachers Asked

New York N.Y.

Racial discrimination should be fought by action against colleges and schools that practice it, by eliminating it from housing developments, by a Federal fair employment practices act and by the teaching of common factors of various cultures, 540 teen-age boys and girls decided yesterday in a youth forum sponsored by The Daily Mirror. Sun. 12-8-46

Juvenile delinquency can be prevented through more settlement houses and other community centers for young people, youth hostels, scouting, the education of parents, more extra-curricular activities in schools, and the extension of school activities to include all students, the youths, meeting at the Hotel Astor, declared.

They proposed that world concepts and psychology be taught in city schools, that sex education be given in high schools at the age of adolescence, that teachers' salaries be raised and their compulsory retirement age dropped from 70 to 60, and that teachers be impartial politically in classrooms and that they teach subjects in which they majored and not those suiting the convenience of the schools.

Elders Give Advice

These recommendations and others relating to international relations and the national economy, drafted in morning panel discussions marked by vigor and directness of speech, were enthusiastically applauded by the delegates at a luncheon at which they heard words of advice, encouragement and praise from some of their elders.

Mayor O'Dwyer said racial bias was one of the big problems left for youth to solve and urged the delegates to work for a solution so that "in your time there will be no trace of race prejudice." He said it was right for them to take an interest in inflation, war and foreign affairs, and juvenile delinquency.

Benjamin Cohen, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, referring to resolutions on international affairs calling for unity to eliminate the causes of war, said the United Nations Economic and Security Council had been established to study such causes and find a basis of agreement. The United Nations would need not only the resolve of all members to support it but also the backing of the peoples of the world, he said. 12-8-46

Good Citizen Described

Attorney General Tom C. Clark, in an address read for him by Assistant Attorney General Theron L. Caudle, told of the functions of the Department of Justice and described the good citizen as one who "does his part to make democracy work for all instead of expecting it to work for him alone."

Dr. John E. Wade, Superintendent of Schools, drew moans when he said the calling off of the coal strike, which had been announced from the platform, would mean that schools would not have to close. The cheers were twice as loud when he went on to say that two extra holidays decided upon because of the coal strike, Dec. 23 and 24, would stand.

Other speakers included Glenn Dobbs, football star; Ruth Clinton, author of the Moline, Ill., plan for combating juvenile delinquency; Drew Pearson and Harry Hershfield, columnist, and Hinson Stiles, managing editor of The Mirror.

Jerry C. Jacobs, 15, of Bronx High School of Science, was chairman of the forum and luncheon. Roberta Silver, 17, presented the report on international cooperation; Myra L. Burns, 16, Evander Childs High School, the report on better working and social conditions in the community; Ashton Springer, 16, Evander Childs, the report on inflation; Basil Hart, 16, Brooklyn Technical High School, the report on juvenile delinquency, and Elliot Breslar, 17, Brooklyn Technical, the report on schools.

The delegates represented fifty-four youth organizations. It was the fourth annual youth forum sponsored by The Mirror.

7/ 1946

Youth Church Outcome

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat.

Pearl Harbo r Sneak Att

EDWARD EARL LEE

When Tojo ordered that sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, he had not the slightest idea that act would result in establishing a distinctive Youth Church at Philadelphia, Pa. Not that the young people's group was a direct result of the Jap infamy; but, indirectly, it did cause the formation of this youthful organization.

The Youth Church is an outgrowth of a canteen established two years ago. At that time, the Philadelphia Presbytery made arrangements for canteens to be organized at churches located in certain districts of the city. McDowell Community Church, 21st Street at Columbia Avenue, was among those chosen, and selected Thursday evening as its time for providing entertainment.

It became a popular gathering place for the Servicemen, but eventually their attendance decreased until, finally, young members of the church were the principal visitors.

Idea Catches On

The Rev. Arthur E. Rankin, pastor, noticed this fact and believed something constructive could be salvaged from the ruins. He suggested that the youths come to the regular Sunday services, not merely to attend, but to participate in them as a group and just as completely as they had in the canteen.

This idea was received enthusiastically by the youngsters and they were installed in due conformance to the parent church. That was in March of 1944.

Present officers of the Youth Church are Jimmy Wickman and Henry Rankin who are "Elders." Among the "Trustees" are Richard Minyard, Eleanor Ward and Betty Claiborne. The latter is treasurer of the organization. As has been the case with various other groups, former officers are now Servicemen.

Two former "Elders"—Jack Wilmore and Herbert Hill—are in the Army. Two erstwhile "Trustees" also are away on duty. They are Charles Joseph and Charles Hardy, the latter serving in the Merchant Marine.

Pastor's Wife Helps

Mrs. Oliva Rankin, wife of the pastor, is affiliated with the group. But, in just what office it is difficult to determine. It was she who gave me this interview and supplied the facts. From her description of the duties she performs, I should describe her office as spiritual director.

However, when I mentioned that term, she smiled whimsically and refused to accept it, saying that she merely guided the youths along the right paths. But, since she had been with the group since its inception, has mothered it like a hen with one chick; and still is tirelessly engaged in promoting its welfare, I consider that she can truly be termed the "spark-plug" of this organization.

The collections. Others are selected to serve as ushers. From these collections, regular contributions are made to the parent church. Their donations do not always have a monetary aspect.

For instance, the first gift these youths made was a sort of living remembrance. This present consisted of two flags: one, the traditional American banner, and the second, a Christian Emblem. They now grace the rostrum and are regarded by the young assemblage as a definite accomplishment of their efforts, and at the same time, a perpetual inspiration for further endeavors.

An outstanding feature of the Youth Church is its self-sufiiciency. Each member takes what is known as a Budget Envelope and in which is placed weekly dues. This envelope is deposited each Sunday on a table which has been designated for their use.

Money Has Meaning

Members are appointed to make

Another commendable feature of the Youth Church is that of their providing expenses for different activities outside their church. One example is their sending delegates to the Young People's Presbyterian Conference which is held annually at Lincoln University, Pa.

They also work with the Westminster Fellowship Group No. 7 of the Philadelphia Presbytery. Then, too, they are part of the Afro-American Young People's Group.

Take Over Parent Church

A comprehensive idea of this young organization's work can best be obtained by being an on-the-spot observer during one of the days set aside for them. This is the fourth Sunday of each month. On that day, the Youth Church takes over as many of the parent church's duties and rituals as are permitted.

These youngsters read the scriptures, offer prayers, sing in the choir, make announcements, serve as ushers, etc.

This assumption of responsibility; this actual and constructive participation in church service, has instilled a keen interest in the progress and welfare of the church. Not only during Youth Sunday, but on every Sabbath worship day, these young people sit alert and interested throughout the services. And, that is remarkable, for they range from teen-age down to four-year-old tots.

The attendance, too, is superb, averaging around 90%. This can be attributed mainly, I think, to the unique setup of the organization. For, the Youth Church worships as a body, pews on the right hand side of the church, reserved for their members.

Only One Organized

It is believed to be the only youth church group so arranged. The prevailing custom among other youth organizations is to hold their services in the basement room, or some other place separate from the adult congregation.

From what has been written, it may seem that the Youth Group's activities end with participation in church. But there is another phase that bears mentioning. While the young people accepted the Rev. Mr. Rankin's suggestion, they still retained their Thursday evening activities. These evenings are devoted to recreation.

Recreation Department

The first Thursday of each month is known as Consecration Night, however, in which the entire period is devoted to worship. On the other three Thursday evenings, a half hour before closing time, all recreation stops. There follows a business meeting, during which reports are discussed and future plans are made. A prayer concludes this session and the children go home.

Despite other competitive interests, the organization has maintained a large membership. Many youngsters from outside the church and who live in the neighborhood have been attracted by its program and become members. These, in turn, brought their friends.

The greatest need at present of the Youth Church is a corps of assistants to Mrs. Rankin. She told me her heartiest welcome would be extended to some young ladies and young men who are experienced in games and crafts, or willing to learn how to become potential leaders.

They should be young people who are interested in and who like children; who could eventually teach and enter into the various activities with these youths of the group.

For this young organization possesses a wealth of talent that could be directed into finishd dramatic units, various sports teams, choral groups, etc.

Young Southerners Seek Unity:

New Orleans Youth Council Scores Fascism, Race Hate

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa Sat. 9-28-46

71

By LUCIUS JONES

NEW ORLEANS—In one of the frankest, sincerest and most courageous "liberal and progressive" mass movements by white and colored youth ever initiated in the Deep South, the New Orleans Youth Council, Sunday afternoon, in its closing meeting of an enthusiastic three-day session in which democracy and brotherhood were not only preached, but also lived—denounced war mongers and race hate peddlers like Bilbo and Rankin and Talmadge; announced its firm stand and positive action for permanent fair employment, anti-lynching and anti-poll tax laws and all other progressive legislation, and strongly endorsed The Pittsburgh Courier's campaign to "unseat" Bilbo as a member of the United States Senate.

The Council also expressed sentiment for abolition of the County Unit vote electoral system in Georgia and bitterly denounced the Monroe, Ga., quadruple lynchings; the Minden, La., atrocity; the permanent blinding of Private Woodard, war veteran; the Elko, S. C., lynching, and all the other instances of mob violence since the end of the war, in which, by the oddest of circumstances, returning veterans have been the victims.

ALERT ON PROGRESSIVE ISSUES

Strong resolutions, calling for immediate positive action, were brought from two-hour panel sessions on the problems of minority groups, jobs and security; education, recreation and health; political action, civil rights, Veterans' problems, lasting peace and NOYC building—all of which firmly condemned racial discrimination and segregation everywhere—in all its vicious forms.

The Council urged the elimination of jim-crow seating, segregated accommodations and jim-crow signs in all public places and on all public carriers—locally, sectionally and nationally. It appealed for true world brotherhood, democracy and unity.

Summarizing the conclusions of the three-day conference, Bill Sorum, upper classman at Tulane University and vice chairman of the Council, asserted that "the work of this conference is not a climax; it is a beginning. It will put words into action, and action to test. It will be a mass progressive movement of all liberal people regardless of race or color. We must recognize our personal responsibilities for seeing that this is done."

RISING TENSIONS CAUSED FORMATION OF COUNCIL

"The need for such an organization arose," Sorum continued. "We arose to the need—to wage a battle for the people's rights. We have been educating for death. Now is the time for us to educate for democracy. We have been keeping down Negro standards, but in doing so, we have also been keeping down white standards. Action is needed, not words. We must be efficient as well as enthusiastic. Enthusiasm cuts no ice—we must have money—we must reach more people. We must enlarge, because — large, we are strong; small, we are weak and easily crushed."

ADVANCE GUARD OF CRUSADING LIBERALS

Delivering the main speech of the closing session Sunday, James E. Jackson, executive director of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, with headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., said, "Youth of New Orleans, you have set a flame in the ominous, dark and cloudy heavens anew, a bright and shining star.

"Storm clouds of reaction cast their shadows over daily lives and our future But your action can contribute to generating new winds of freedom to beat back the gathering storm clouds of re- hover over our land."

POSITIVE ACTION FROM PANELS

Presenting resolutions from the panels of the conference was Miss Monica Fusiliere, co-ed at Newcombe College. The program of action was presented by Samuel Green; the financial report was given by Samuel Elson; the constitution alter adopted was read by Mrs. Gwendolyn Samuelson and presiding over the closing session was Joseph W. Davis. Officers of the Council are:

Alvin Jones, president; Mr. Sorum and Miss Pearl Singerman, co-ed at Newcomb College, vice chairmen; Miss Beatrice Johnson, secretary, and Mr. Samuelson, treasurer. Sat. 9-28-46

Filling key spots in other sessions of the conference were Ernest J. Wright, CIO labor leader and director of the People's Defense League; Moses Turner Jr., AFL labor leader; Clarence A. Laws, executive secreary of the New Orleans Urban League; Raymond R. Tillman, International representative of Local 206 of the Transport Workers Union of America, CIO, and vice president of the National Negro Congress, as well as President Jones, delivering the organizing speech Saturday afternoon.